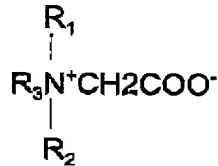


THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A fluid for fracturing a subterranean formation comprising:
 - (i) a surfactant having the general formula

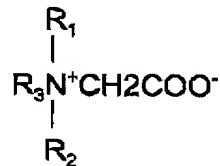


where R₁-R₂ are each an aliphatic group of C1-C4, branched or straight chained, saturated or unsaturated, R₃ is a group of C12-C22, branched, straight chained or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated;

- (ii) a water soluble or dispersible anionic organic or inorganic salt;
- (iii) an acid; and
- (iv) a low molecular weight organic solvent.

2. A method of fracturing a subterranean formation comprising the steps of:
providing a visco-elastic surfactant based hydraulic fracturing fluid comprising:

- (i) a surfactant having the general formula



where R₁-R₂ are each an aliphatic group of C1-C4, branched or straight chained, saturated or unsaturated, R₃ is a group of C12-C22, branched, straight chained or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated;

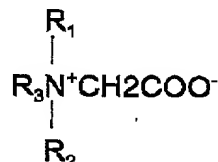
- (ii) a water soluble or dispersible anionic organic or inorganic salt;
- (iii) an acid; and
- (iv) a low molecular weight organic solvent, and;

pumping said fracturing fluid through a well bore and into a subterranean formation at a sufficient pressure to cause fracturing of said formation.

[illegible]

3. A fluid as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ratio of said salt to said surfactant is in the range of 1:4 to 1:2.
4. A fluid as claimed in claim 3, wherein said salt is selected from the group including potassium sulfonate, zinc sulfonate, magnesium sulfonate, xylene sulfonate, toluene sulfonate, naphthalene sulfonates, NaCl and KCl.
5. A fluid as claimed in claim 3, wherein said acid is selected from the group including formic acid, citric acid, hydrochloric acid, acetic acid.
6. A fluid as claimed in claim 3, wherein said organic solvent is a low molecular weight alcohol.
7. A fluid as claimed in claim 6, wherein said surfactant is present in a quantity of about 0.1% (wt) to about 5.0% (wt).
8. A fluid as claimed in claim 7, in the form of a foam including about 52 to about 95% liquified gas selected from the group including CO₂, N₂, air and low molecular weight hydrocarbons.
9. A fluid as claimed in claim 8 containing 10-200 standard cubic metres of N₂ per cubic metre of fluid.
10. A fluid as claimed in claim 8, containing 10-200 standard cubic metres of gaseous CO₂ per cub metre of fluid or the liquid equivalent.
11. A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the ratio of said salt to said surfactant is in the range of 1:4 to 1:2.
12. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said salt is selected from the group including potassium sulfonate, zinc sulfonate, magnesium sulfonate, xylene sulfonate, toluene sulfonate, naphthalene sulfonates, NaCl and KCl.

13. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said acid is selected from the group including formic acid, citric acid, hydrochloric acid, acetic acid.
14. A method as claimed in claim 11, wherein said organic solvent is a low molecular weight alcohol.
15. A method as claimed in claim 14, wherein said surfactant is present in a quantity of about 0.1% (wt) to about 5.0% (wt).
16. A method as claimed in claim 15, in the form of a foam including about 52 to about 95% liquified gas selected from the group including CO₂, N₂, air and low molecular weight hydrocarbons.
17. A method as claimed in claim 16 containing 10-200 standard cubic metres of N₂ per cubic metre of fluid.
18. A method as claimed in claim 16, containing 10-200 standard cubic metres of gaseous CO₂ per cubic metre of fluid or the liquid equivalent.
19. A method as claimed in claim 2, including the further step of lowering the viscosity of said fluid by raising the pH thereof.
20. A method as claimed in claim 19, wherein said pH is raised by the addition of an alkaline compound selected from the group including carbonates, oxides, and amines.
21. A fluid for fracturing a subterranean formation comprising:
 - (i) a surfactant having the general formula



where R₁-R₂ are each an aliphatic group of C1-C4, branched or straight chained, saturated or unsaturated, R₃ is a group of C12-C22, branched, straight chained or cyclic, saturated or unsaturated;

- (ii) a water soluble or dispersible anionic organic or inorganic salt; and
- (iii) an acid.

22. A fluid as claimed in claim 21, wherein said acid is a strong acid selected from the group including hydrochloric, hydrofluoric, formic, sulfamic, acetic, or mixtures thereof.

1997-1998		1998-1999		1999-2000		2000-2001		2001-2002		2002-2003		2003-2004		2004-2005		2005-2006		2006-2007		2007-2008		2008-2009		2009-2010		2010-2011		2011-2012		2012-2013		2013-2014		2014-2015		2015-2016		2016-2017		2017-2018		2018-2019		2019-2020		2020-2021		2021-2022		2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025		2025-2026		2026-2027		2027-2028		2028-2029		2029-2030		2030-2031		2031-2032		2032-2033		2033-2034		2034-2035		2035-2036		2036-2037		2037-2038		2038-2039		2039-2040		2040-2041		2041-2042		2042-2043		2043-2044		2044-2045		2045-2046		2046-2047		2047-2048		2048-2049		2049-2050		2050-2051		2051-2052		2052-2053		2053-2054		2054-2055		2055-2056		2056-2057		2057-2058		2058-2059		2059-2060		2060-2061		2061-2062		2062-2063		2063-2064		2064-2065		2065-2066		2066-2067		2067-2068		2068-2069		2069-2070		2070-2071		2071-2072		2072-2073		2073-2074		2074-2075		2075-2076		2076-2077		2077-2078		2078-2079		2079-2080		2080-2081		2081-2082		2082-2083		2083-2084		2084-2085		2085-2086		2086-2087		2087-2088		2088-2089		2089-2090		2090-2091		2091-2092		2092-2093		2093-2094		2094-2095		2095-2096		2096-2097		2097-2098		2098-2099		2099-2100		2100-2101		2101-2102		2102-2103		2103-2104		2104-2105		2105-2106		2106-2107		2107-2108		2108-2109		2109-2110		2110-2111		2111-2112		2112-2113		2113-2114		2114-2115		2115-2116		2116-2117		2117-2118		2118-2119		2119-2120		2120-2121		2121-2122		2122-2123		2123-2124		2124-2125		2125-2126		2126-2127		2127-2128		2128-2129		2129-2130		2130-2131		2131-2132		2132-2133		2133-2134		2134-2135		2135-2136		2136-2137		2137-2138		2138-2139		2139-2140		2140-2141		2141-2142		2142-2143		2143-2144		2144-2145		2145-2146		2146-2147		2147-2148		2148-2149		2149-2150		2150-2151		2151-2152		2152-2153		2153-2154		2154-2155		2155-2156		2156-2157		2157-2158		2158-2159		2159-2160		2160-2161		2161-2162		2162-2163		2163-2164		2164-2165		2165-2166		2166-2167		2167-2168		2168-2169		2169-2170		2170-2171		2171-2172		2172-2173		2173-2174		2174-2175		2175-2176		2176-2177		2177-2178		2178-2179		2179-2180		2180-2181		2181-2182		2182-2183		2183-2184		2184-2185		2185-2186		2186-2187		2187-2188		2188-2189		2189-2190		2190-2191		2191-2192		2192-2193		2193-2194		2194-2195		2195-2196		2196-2197		2197-2198		2198-2199		2199-2200		2200-2201		2201-2202		2202-2203		2203-2204		2204-2205		2205-2206		2206-2207		2207-2208		2208-2209		2209-2210		2210-2211		2211-2212		2212-2213		2213-2214		2214-2215		2215-2216		2216-2217		2217-2218		2218-2219		2219-2220		2220-2221		2221-2222		2222-2223		2223-2224	
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